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*November 7th, 1848.*

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

Letters were read :

From Dr. Charles Nicholson, dated Sydney, New South Wales, April 5th, 1848, acknowledging the receipt of his notice of election as a correspondent, and announcing that he had forwarded for the Academy, collections of Shells, Insects, and other objects of natural history of that country.

From Prof. Th. Lacordaire, of Liege, dated April, 1848, accompanying a copy of his recent work, "*Monographie des Coléoptères subpentamères de la famille des Phytophages*," in two vols. 8vo., for which he desired in exchange a copy of the Proceedings of the Academy, which was accordingly ordered.

By permission of the Society, a report was read from the Committee on Mr. Pease's paper on the Geology and Natural History of Mexico, recommending the same for publication in the September and October No. of the Proceedings, which was adopted.

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*November 14th, 1848.*

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

Letters were read from Hugh E. Strickland, Esq., dated Oxford, England, October 26, 1848, and from Edward Tuckerman, Esq., dated Cambridge, Mass., November 10, 1848, severally acknowledging the receipt of their notices of election as Correspondents.

Dr. Gambel called the attention of the Society to a fine collection of Skins of Quadrupeds, collected by Dr. John K. Townsend during his late tour to the Rocky Mountains, Sandwich Islands, &c., which the latter offered to dispose of to the Academy. On motion the subject was referred to the Curators.

Dr. Morton exhibited an antique silver image from Peru, sent to him by William A. Foster, Esq., of Lima, the head of which was moulded into the remarkable conical form, characteristic of the crania of the people of that country.

Dr. Morton also stated that he had received information of the discovery of the *Megalosaurus* in the cretaceous formations of New Jersey.

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*November 21st, 1848.*

Dr. BRIDGES in the Chair.

A letter was read from Dr. Thomas Horsfield, dated Library of East India Company, London, November 2, 1848, acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the Journal of the Academy, and stating that the

casts of Sivalik Fossils lately presented by the Hon. E. I. Company to the Academy, which had been mutilated in the transportation, would be replaced by others, which were already in course of preparation.

A communication was read from the Secretary of the American Philosophical Society, dated October 21, 1848, acknowledging the receipt of No. 2, New Series, of the Journal of the Academy.

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*November 28th, 1848.*

MR. VAUX in the Chair.

The Committee appointed to superintend the printing of the New List of Members and Correspondents, reported that they had performed that duty, and that copies were ready for distribution. The List comprises the names of 70 life members, 80 contributing do., 33 non-contributing do., and 62 deceased do., total 245; and of Correspondents, foreign 257, (42 deceased) and domestic 263, (45 deceased) total 520. Total Members and Correspondents to Oct. 1, 1848—765.

The Committee to whom was referred Professor Johnson's letter in reference to a memorial to Congress recommending the addition of one or more Naturalists to the Astronomical expedition now being fitted out for Chili, by order of the Government, *Reported*, that they consider this addition as of great importance, and would recommend the appointment of a Committee, with authority to take such steps in the matter as may be necessary to ensure this result. Report adopted, and on motion, the whole subject was referred to the same Committee, viz: Dr. Morton, Dr. Bridges, and Mr. Vaux.

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*December 5th, 1848.*

MR. PHILLIPS in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, transmitting the first volume of their "Contributions to Knowledge," with a Circular describing the plan of organization of the Institution, and a printed list of queries addressed to the Librarian of the Academy in relation to the Library.

A letter was also read from the Imperial Society of Naturalists of Moscow, dated August 17, 1848, accompanying several numbers of the Bulletin of that Society.

Dr. Leidy offered the following observations on the development of bone, the structure of articular cartilage, and on the relation of the areolar tissue with muscle and tendon.

1. *On the development of the Purkinjean corpuscle in bone.*—Schwann, in his "Mikroskopische Untersuchungen," considers that the Purkinjean corpuscle of bone is derived from the pre-existing cartilage cell, and that the canaliculi are prolongations, or protrusions of the cell wall. Many later authors, among whom are Gerber, and Todd and Bowman, express the opinion that it originates in the nucleus of the temporary cartilage cell, and Tomes entertains the idea, that after the formation of the osseous tubes, in the process of ossification, the latter are